



Spring Newsletter
May 2008

Hampton Soil & Water Conservation District

Farm Bureau Building—1002 Elm Street East, Suite B

Hampton, SC 29924

803-943-2586 ext. 3 — 803-943-5743 (fax)

Staff:

Jeff Lucas, Acting District Conservationist
Mike Lott, Resource Conservationist
Odessa S. Armstrong, Soil Conservationist
Charles Murdaugh, Conservation Technician
Paula A. Rhodes, Education Coordinator
Jennifer Majors, DNR Program Coordinator

Commissioners:

W.E. Corbin, Jr., Chairman
Gary Youmans, Vice-Chairman
Ray Crapse, Secretary-Treasurer
Terrell Smith, Commissioner
Jimmy Mole, Commissioner
Emmett Rouse, Associate Commissioner

Inside this issue:

Beach Sweep/River Sweep

2

Farm-City Celebrated

2

Contest Winners

3

Affiliate Members

4

4-H₂O Camp

5

NRCS Cost-Share Programs

6

2007 Cooperator of the Year—Doug Jarrell

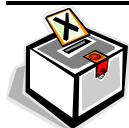
Doug Jarrell has been a full-time farmer for the past six years. However, the past six years does not include all the time that he spent farming while in high school. Doug and his dad farm approximately 750 acres in the Nixville/Furman community of Hampton County. Their crops consist of cotton,



Ed Corbin, District Chairman, presents 2007 Cooperator of the Year Award to Doug and Wendy Jarrell.

corn, soybeans, peanuts and watermelon. Doug is an avid conservationist and has installed several practices on his farming operation that includes no-till, cover crop, precision agriculture, field borders and nutrient and pest management.

The Conservation District appreciates Doug's hard work on improving the natural resources on his farm and for always being willing to implement innovative conservation practices. For this reason, the Conservation District recently awarded Doug the 2007 Cooperator of the Year Award.



One Conservation District Commissioner Position to be Filled in the 2008 General Election

This year the Hampton Conservation District will have one District Commissioner position appearing on the November 2008 General Election ballot. The election of district commissioners is through the petition process on a non-partisan basis. July 15, 2008, is the deadline for submission of petitions to appropriate election official for names to be placed on the November 4th General Election ballot.

The conservation district is managed by a five-member board. These individuals serve as Conservation District Commissioners in each of the state's forty-six Soil and Water Conservation Districts. In South Carolina, conservation district boundaries are the same as county lines. Conservation district commissioners are non-salaried officials. Can-

didates must be registered voters in the county in which they are seeking office.

Each year conservation district commissioners volunteer thousands of hours promoting soil and water conservation practices in urban and rural areas. Their task include planning and directing a conservation program, assigning priority to resource development and serving as a community clearinghouse for information and services on natural resource issues. Regular board meetings are held for setting priorities and planning with the cooperating agencies' staff. For more information contact the Hampton Conservation District office at 943-2586 ext. 3.



Beach Sweep/River Sweep is the largest one-day litter cleanup of South Carolina's beaches and waterways. The annual Beach Sweep/River Sweep statewide cleanup was held September 2007 with 34 inland counties reporting Sweep events.

The Wade Hampton High School Ecology Club participated with two separate litter cleanups in Hampton County. Forty-five volunteers were successful in removing over 39 bags of litter plus several tires from two boat landings and adjacent roadways in the county. Last year, over



Pictured are members from the WHHS Ecology Club after a cleanup at Goat Hill boat landing.

1,800 South Carolinians collected over 73,362 pounds of trash just in our inland cleanups! The most common items reported to be picked up were cigarettes, beverage containers (cans, glass, plastic), bags, food wrappers, cups/plates and bait containers.



Pictured are members from the WHHS Ecology Club removing trash from Lake Warren State Park.

Beach Sweep/River Sweep benefits South Carolina's environment by removing unsightly debris, promoting stewardship in our communities and educating people on the importance of recycling. The Hampton Conservation District sponsors this event locally and they are proud of the efforts that have been made over the years by all of the volunteers who have given numerous hours with this worthwhile project.

Farm-City Celebrated

What does a teacher, police officer, attorney or student have in common? They all eat that's what! At times we may forget that we have an abundant supply of food and there are many people involved in making our food supply chain so efficient. Farm-City celebrates the interdependence that city and farm neighbors have on each other for food, products and services. This special celebration of our rural and urban sectors is held before Thanksgiving each year in many counties in South Carolina and also in many states throughout the United States.



The Hampton County Recreation Department park was the host site for this outdoor event in November 2007. All of the favorite events such as corn shelling, wheat grinding and butter making were held again. There were also games, a 'corn' sand box, crafts, refreshments, door prizes and educational packets. A special addition to the event was a spinning wheel and sheep provided by Kurt and Cassie Larsen of Little Creek Plantation from Brunson. The SC National Guard rock climbing wall proved to be a big attraction again.

This Farm-City celebration was sponsored by Clemson Extension Service, Hampton County Farm Bureau Women's Committee, Hampton County Recreation Department, Hampton Soil & Water Conservation District, SC National Guard and USDA-Farm Service Agency.



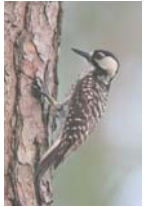
***"Endangered Species—Why Save Them?"* Essay and Poster Contest Winners**

The commissioners of the Hampton Soil and Water Conservation District are proud to announce the winners of the 2008 Conservation Essay and Poster contest. The topic for this year's competition was *"Endangered Species - Why Save Them?"* Students were asked to pick one endangered species found in South Carolina and explain why that species is endangered and why it is important to protect endangered species. The Conservation District received 62 essays and 13 posters.



"I was pleasantly surprised when the contest entries came in and there were so many different endangered species highlighted in the essays and posters," stated Paula Rhodes, Education Coordinator with the Hampton Conservation District. "I really thought that we would receive numerous entries with the same endangered species reported on, but that was not the case. Everyone really put a lot of time and effort into this year's contest and the Conservation District appreciates all of their hard work." The essays received highlighted 21 different endangered species in-

cluding the Indiana Bat, Eastern Cougar, Red-Cockaded Woodpecker and Eastern Indigo Snake. Eleven endangered species including the Green Sea Turtle, Humpback Whale, American Alligator and Pitcher Plant were highlighted on the creative posters.



The poster contest was open to all Kindergarten – 4th grades and all entries were a class effort. The essay contest was open to all 5th – 8th grades and students wrote individual reports following contest guidelines. The poster contest winners in each grade level were awarded a class pizza party and the teachers received a framed certificate. The 1st place winners in the essay contest received a \$100 Savings Bond and 2nd place winners received a \$50 Savings Bond, as well as certificates.

The Conservation District wishes to thank the Hampton County Library for displaying the winning posters throughout the month of March. The Hampton Soil and Water Conservation District sponsors the contest locally. (Continued on Page 5.)



Pictured are the 1st grade poster winners from Varnville Elementary School. Not pictured is their teacher, Paula Breland.



Pictured are the 2nd grade poster winners (tie) from Varnville Elementary School with their teacher, Rachael Phillips.



Pictured are the 2nd grade poster winners (tie) from Brunson Elementary School with their teacher, Tamra Bishop.



Pictured are the 3rd grade poster winners from Varnville Elementary School with their teacher, Debbie Blakewood.



Pictured are the 4th grade poster winners from Hampton Elementary School with their teacher, Carolyn Robinson.

Affiliate Members ~ 2007-2008

Thank you Affiliate Members! Without your support and contributions, the Hampton Soil & Water Conservation District would be unable to carry out the many services and educational programs that are sponsored by the District throughout our community. The Hampton Conservation District is a non-profit organization and we rely on contributions to support our services and programs. We appreciate your donations and we invite individuals, families, friends

and businesses to join our organization as an Affiliate Member!

Affiliate Members are a vital part of our conservation team with the Hampton Soil & Water Conservation District. The Conservation District is committed to helping educate the students and landowners of Hampton County. We believe the more knowledge we have, the better we become as caretakers of our natural resources.

Steward of the Soil—\$100+

Anderson & Brown, LLC
Boyles Real Estate Co., Inc.
Clariant Corporation
Dr. Tire, Inc.
Drawdy, Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Sr.
Gibson Landclearing
Green Acres Turf Farm, LLC
Hampton County Farm Bureau
J.R. Wilson Construction Co., Inc.
Mills, Dr. Francis A.
Palmetto Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Palmetto State Bank

Sustaining—\$50

AgSouth Farm Credit
American Forest Management, Inc.
BB&T
Goettee Farm
Guess Farm Equipment Co., Inc.
Hampton Animal Hospital
Henderson, Daniel E.
Matthews, Senator John W. Jr.
Mexico Bay Farm
Parker, Johnny & Peggy
Polk's Muffler & Brake
Shaffer-Mixson Real Estate & Auction Co.
State Farm—Debbie Elrod

Affiliate—\$25

Benton and Rhodes, Inc.
Bo Peep Plantation
Breland Well Drilling
Bug Busters, Inc.
Bullard Farms
Burris, Skeet & Gail
Chitwood, Charles
Citizens Choice Agency
Cram, Peter
Cummings Oil Co., Inc.
Cusabo Plantation
Hanna & Hanna, Inc.
Hydro Enterprises, Inc.
Laffitte, Mary & Norris
Maner, C. Lawton
Morrison Forestry & Real Estate Co., Inc.
Pendarvis, Butch
Scott Woodlands, LLC
TGS Land Surveying
Tison Motor Company, Inc.
Wise Batten, Inc.

Contest Winners Continued ~~



Pictured are the 5th and 6th grade essay winners from Hampton Elementary (L-R): Evan Rhodes, 1st place 5th grade; Terri Stansfield, teacher; Madison Wachowski, 2nd place 5th grade; Dakota Hadwin, Honorable Mention 5th grade; Morgan Wood, Honorable Mention 5th grade; Bonnie Smiley, teacher; Michaela Conder, Honorable Mention 6th grade; and Cassie Kemmerlin, 1st place 6th grade. Not pictured is the 6th grade teacher, Rolynn Stanley.



Pictured is the 6th grade winner from Brunson Elementary (L-R): Terry Bryant, teacher and Sara Smiley, 2nd place. Not pictured is Rachel Crosby, Honorable Mention 6th grade.

Youth Invited to Learn About Water Issues

Clemson Extension 4-H and Hampton Conservation District have teamed up to host a three-day camp for local 8-12 year old children to teach them about many water related issues. The camp will be held June 3-5 at Lake Warren State Park from 9 am-12 noon each day. Throughout the camp the participants will have many hands-on activities and learn about watersheds, water quality and life in the water. Best of all, everything that is taught at this camp addresses SC Science Curriculum Standards.

The cost of the camp is \$25 and this covers snacks/drinks each day and each child participating will receive a t-shirt at the end of the camp. Space is limited so contact the Hampton Clemson Extension office by calling 943-3621, ext. 112 or go by their office located in the B.T. DeLoach Building, 201 Jackson Avenue West, Hampton to obtain an application. Application deadline is May 23.



Make Every Day



Earth Day

Earth Day is a great opportunity to do something for your community, your health and your planet. You don't have to be a celebrity to make a difference. There are many simple things you can do to make an impact on the environment. But by far, the best thing you can do is *Make Every Day Earth Day*, not just celebrate one day out of the year!

Save time and paper...Switch to tree-free billing and pay those bills online or with an automatic debit.

Donate used toys...Why not? By donating gently used toys means someone else's child will receive a wonderful gift and your kids will understand the importance of giving back.

Clean up litter...Volunteer!! You will meet people and feel good because you ARE making a difference!

Buy produce locally...Buying from sources close to home reduces the need to transport the produce and decreases the amount of pollution pumped into the air.



Hampton Soil & Water Conservation District

Farm Bureau Building
1002 Elm Street East, Suite B
Hampton, SC 29924

Phone: 803-943-2586, ext. 3

Fax: 803-943-5743

Email: paula.rhodes@sc.nacdn.net

The following is an overview of cost-share programs managed by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA); as well as the South Carolina Forestry Commission. Contact NRCS at 943-2586 x 3 for more information on EQIP, WHIP and WRP. Contact FSA at 943-2586 x 2 for more information on CRP. The S.C. Forestry Commission should be contacted at 943-3915 regarding FRP and SPB.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP):

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is USDA's conservation program that targets production agriculture. EQIP provides cost-sharing and incentive payments for conservation practices such as cover crops followed by no-till/strip-till spring crops, terraces, grass waterways, grazing land management (fencing, wells, stockwater tanks, etc.), grass planting for pasture or hay, tree planting in cropland fields, and the modification of an irrigation system to improve water application efficiency. The use of B-20 biodiesel fuel on the farm is now eligible for incentive payments. Precision agriculture, the variable rate application of fertilizer and lime based on soil samples from management zones within each field, is also eligible for payments. **To increase your chances for EQIP funding, apply by September 30, 2008.**

WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP):

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program to restore wetlands that have been altered or drained. Landowners participating in WRP can establish conservation easements of either permanent or 30 year duration, or they can enter into restoration cost-share agreements where no easement is involved. In exchange for establishing a permanent conservation easement through WRP, the landowner receives payment up to the agricultural value of the land as well as cost-sharing for work needed to restore the wetland. The 30-year easement payment is 75% of what would be provided for a permanent easement on the same site and 75% of the restoration cost. In all instances, landowners continue to control access to their land. Applications are being accepted on a continuous basis.

WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM (WHIP):

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) provides cost-sharing and incentive payments to landowners who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat on private lands. Financial assistance may be provided for practices such as prescribed burning, establishing permanent firebreaks, field borders, hedgerows, hardwood and longleaf pine planting, and management of native vegetation. **To increase your changes for WHIP funding, apply by September 30, 2008.**

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP):

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) encourages landowners to convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative covers such as wildlife plantings, trees, filter strips, or riparian buffers. Program participants receive an annual rental payment for the term of the 10 or 15 year contract. In addition, cost sharing is provided to establish the practices. There is a continuous sign-up for anyone interested in installing vegetative field borders or buffers in cropland fields or planting longleaf pines in cropland fields with sandy soils.

FOREST RENEWAL PROGRAM (FRP) AND SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE PROGRAM (SPB):

The Forest Renewal Program (FRP) and the Southern Pine Beetle Program (SPB) are both administered by the South Carolina Forestry Commission. These programs provide cost-sharing to reforest cutover land, plant open land, or improve existing woodlands through methods such as herbicide treatment and pre-commercial thinning.

Meetings of the Board of Commissioners are regularly scheduled on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 pm at The Hampton Restaurant. All meetings are open to the public.

All programs and services of the Hampton Soil & Water Conservation District, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, and DNR-Land, Water and Conservation Division are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.